

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00417 270026Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----040455 272318Z /70

R 200516Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6537

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0417

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, SY
SUBJ: GENERAL ENGINES VS. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 00164

1. COMOFF CALLED AGAIN UPON MUMEIDAN, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, ON MATTER OF INSPECTION OF TRAILERS REQUESTED BY GENERAL ENGINES. MINISTER, HE SAID, FLATLY TURNED DOWN EMBASSY REQUEST TO VIEW TRAILERS ON GROUNDS THAT INFORMATION OBTAINED MIGHT BE USED IN COURT AGAINST MINISTRY. HUMEIDAN ADDED THAT TRAILERS WERE IN MINISTRY POSSESSION AND HAVE BEEN USED.

2. MINISTRY EXERCISED THAT IT SHOULD BE DEFENDANT WITH MCELROY IN SUIT INITIATED BY GENERAL ENGINES. IF ANYTHING, HUMEIDAN EXPLAINED, MINISTRY SHOULD JOIN GENERAL ENGINES AS PLAINTIFF AGAINST MCELROY. BOTH MINISTRY AND GENERAL ENGINES ARE INJURED PARTIES BECAUSE OF MCELROY.

3. HUMEIDAN WENT ON TO REPEAT MINISTRY'S VERSION OF EVENTS; MCELROY DID NOT DELIVER ON ALL EQUIPMENT AND PARTS PROMISED; MCELROY PARTIALLY CASHED IN 1/C'S USING FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS SO THAT MINISTRY IS OUT ABOUT 300,000 DOLS ON GOODS NOT DELIVERED BUT INCLUDED ON INVOICES; MINISTRY CONTRACTS WERE WITH MCELROY AND NOT WITH GENERAL ENGINES (GENERAL ENGINES UNCLASSIFIED

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NEVER MENTIONED BY NAME IN CONTRACTS); MINISTRY WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD TRAILERS AGAINST EVENTUAL MCELROY PAYMENT; GENERAL ENGINES GRIEVANCE SHOULD BE AGAINST MCELROY, NOT AGAINST MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. HUMEIDAN REBUFFED ALL SUGGESTIONS BY COMOFF THAT MINISTRY AND GENERAL ENGINES ATTEMPT TO REACH SETTLEMENT ON MATTER OF TRAILERS, LEAVING ASIDE OTHER MINISTRY PROBLEMS

WITH MCELROY.

4. HUMEIDAN ASKED IF USDOC HAS BEEN ABLE TO PERSUADE MCELROY TO MEET HIS OBLIGATIONS. WE EXPLAINED ONCE AGAIN THAT NEITHER EMBASSY NOR USDOC HAS LEGAL POWER TO ENFORCE CONTRACTS OR ARBITRATE TRADE DISPUTES.

5. CONSISTENTLY HARD MINISTRY ATTITUDE DURING PAST YEAR ON MCELROY CONTRACT LEADS US TO CONCLUDE GENERAL ENGINES COMPLAINT IS AT AN IMPASSE, AT LEAST AT DAMASCUS END.

6. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PASS TO HUMEIDAN ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON MCELROY AND HIS AFFAIRS WHICH USDOC HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACCUMULATE. PLEASE ADVISE.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAMASC00417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0854
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780141/aaaabiry.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f425c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DAMASCUS 164
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3742850
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL ENGINES VS. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
TAGS: BDIS, SY
To: COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f425c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014